

Report of the Director - Place

External Funding Panel – 5 July 2017

WELSH GOVERNMENT SAFER ROUTES IN COMMUNITIES GRANT APPLICATION 2017/18

Purpose:	Provide information on Welsh Government Safer Routes in Communities Grant Application 2017/18
Policy Framework:	Emerging Five Council Key Priorities and Welsh Government Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: (i) The External Funding Panel allow officers to accept Safer Routes in Communities (SRIC) grant funding. (ii) Projects are developed and implemented to create safer walking particularly around schools in St. Thomas.
Report Author:	Alan Ferris
Finance Officer:	Jayne James
Legal Officer:	Caritas Adere
Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the application to the Welsh Government for Safer Routes in Communities (SRIC) Grant funding.
- 1.2. The Safer Routes in Communities Initiative enhances the provision of walking and cycling routes in communities, particularly outside and in the vicinity of schools. This is targeted at encouraging a more sustainable lifestyle in the communities and addressing social exclusion issues.

- 1.3 The submission for funding is based upon an application to Welsh Government that occurs during the first quarter of the New Year for funding to be received during the following financial year and beyond.
i.e. February 2017 with funding received in April 2017 to be delivered during 2017/18.
- 1.4 The Initiative links to National policies such as the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, Road Safety Framework for Wales 2013, Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Learner Guidance 2014. The overall aim is to create safer walking and cycling routes for communities and promote these as a more sustainable method of travelling around communities. It will also help to ease vehicular congestion outside schools as more sustainable methods of transport are used.
- 1.5 The Initiative also supports the Council's own priorities in that it is safeguarding vulnerable people (Prevention of accidents to children and young people) improving pupil attainment (involving pupils in the process), tackling Poverty and building sustainable communities (Encouraging walking and cycling).

Recommendation(s) : It is recommended that:

- (i) The External Funding Panel allow officers to accept Safer Routes in Communities (SRIC) grant funding.
- (ii) Projects are developed to create safer walking and cycling environments particularly around schools in St. Thomas.

2 Equality and Engagement Implications

An EIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report was not required. A copy of this has been appended to the report.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The proposals are based on a grant of £218,600 of funding from Welsh Government in year 2017/18 with support of £34,800 of Section 106 contribution designed to support the overall initiative.
- 3.2 There are no ongoing financial implications in relation to staff as the success of the bids will include for design fees which support existing operations within Traffic and Highway Network Management.
- 3.3 The implementation of the work will impact on road maintenance budgets resulting in a modest increase of costs going forward in future years.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Highways Act 1980 Section 41(1) places a statutory duty of care on the Highway Authority towards road users of all kinds. The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 legislates for the provision of routes designed for walking and cycling. The success of this bid will help the Council in meeting its obligations in this regard.

5 Background Papers:

- 5.1 No background papers that need to be disclosed were used in the preparation of this report.

Appendices: None